

## **Tarrywile Park & Mansion Newsletter & Calendar of Events April 2006 - August 2006**

What's new at Tarrywile.....Spring arrived at 1:26 pm EST on Monday March 20th. Oh how we have longed for the spring flowers and green grass. It's only a matter of time and we will be rewarded with the beautiful colors of spring and the warm temperatures that summer will bring.

This summer will also bring great things to Tarrywile Park other than just warm weather. On June 3rd, we will celebrate our 14th year of participating in National Trails Day. Along with activities such as bridge building, guided hikes, orienteering, letterboxing and geocaching, we will celebrate the grand opening of the Ives Trail and Greenway. This 14.2 mile trail will begin in Ridgefield at Bennett's Pond and will run through Pine Mountain, past the site of Danbury's native composer, Charles Ives summer retreat, where he composed much of his music. From there we move on through Wooster Mountain State Park and across Route 7 at Starr's Plain Rd. The trail will then wind its way along the back of Jackson's Pond, through the eastern side of Wooster Mountain State Park and into Tarrywile Park connecting with the park's yellow trail near the top of Mootry Peak. It will then follow the Park trail system to end of the orange trail just shy of the Bethel border. Once in Bethel, the trail will continue through the Eureka Reservoir property, to Mountain Pond and end at the Francis Clark Industrial Park.

The Ives Trail Task Force has worked hard to establish this trail and has had the help of many dedicated volunteers from Danbury, Ridgefield and Bethel. Tarrywile Park volunteer trail maintainers are working hard to reroute a portion of the orange trail and to clear the spur trail that will enter the Park across from the Charles Ives Birthplace on Mountainville Rd. They will also be working full steam ahead to spruce up the Tarrywile trail system and trail markers in time for the June 3rd celebration. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project and would like to give back to your community, check out our work schedule listed elsewhere in the newsletter and contact our office today. This year's National Trails Day theme is \*experience your outdoors.\* So come and do just that. Join us for a great day in the Park and to celebrate with us as we continue to provide passive recreational activities for the whole family.

As reported in the fall newsletter, the Tarrywile Park Authority has been working with Danbury architect, Don Zaleta, to develop an adaptive reuse plan for Hearthstone Castle. The engineering reports are in and the reuse plan is now being reviewed. And the good news is that the Tarrywile Park Authority Castle Committee will be working with Mayor Boughton to establish a Castle Task Force to move forward with the restoration plan. This is an exciting time for the Park as we wait with hopeful anticipation that this beautiful structure will be restored and will become a destination for all visitors from the greater Danbury area. Keep your eye on your local paper for more details in the very near future.

We had a very successful Winterfest on January 21 despite the almost 50 degree temperatures. And our first annual fruitcake toss was a great addition to our regular lineup of winter sport activities. The fruitcake toss had several categories for participants that ranged from small children through senior citizens. And we saw some very good arms in all categories. (See newsletter for results.) Watch for our fall/winter newsletter for the date of next year\*s event so you can plan on joining the fun and perhaps you will take 1st place. You might just want to keep that throwing arm in good shape all year round now that there is a \*sport\* that sporting enthusiasts can take part in even in the winter. As we noted in previous newsletters, we are working to build our \*Friends\* organization one friend at a time. There are many opportunities open for volunteers in the Park. Whether as a group from a corporation or scouting or as an individual or family, we welcome volunteers and are always open to new programs, projects and a helping hand. If you are a hiker and wish to help us with improvements to our trail system, you may be interested in checking out the dates of upcoming trail maintenance projects. If trail maintenance isn\*t your thing, keep your eye out for the fall newsletter as we look to increase our volunteer opportunities to gardening, fundraising and the Castle restoration.

Thank you to all Park users who are abiding by the \*dogs on leash\* law. We hope that this year will be a year of complete compliance through education, respect and good old fashioned common sense for the well being of all our fellow citizens and their canine friends.

Have a happy and healthy spring and summer. Come to the Park often and enjoy the great outdoors \* \*your outdoors\*.

## **Calendar**

### **Guided Hikes**

Join Park volunteers Rita, Dawn, Jane, George and Lou as they guide you through the trails at Tarrywile. The following information applies to all hikes and the schedule is listed below.

All hikes are free and will only be canceled in the event of heavy rain. Hikes start at the Red Barn Environmental Center with participants parking in the lower Mansion parking lot. Hike participants are encouraged to wear rugged sturdy shoes, to bring water, bug spray and a light snack if desired. Please pre-register for the hikes by calling the Park office at (203)744-3130 by 4 pm the day before the hike. Hikes generally run from 2 - 3 hours in duration

### **June – August Hikes**

Saturday, June 24th - 8 am start

Thursday, June 29th - 5 pm start

Saturday, July 1st - 8 am start

Thursday, July 6th - 5 pm start

Saturday, July 8th - 8 am start  
Saturday, July 15th - 8 am start  
Thursday, July 27th - 5 pm start  
Saturday, August 5th - 8 am start  
Thursday, August 10th - 5 pm start  
Saturday, August 12th - 8 am start  
Thursday, August 24th - 5 pm start  
Saturday, August 26th - 8 am start

### **Wild Food Tour**

Join Naturalist and Arthur "Wildman" Steve Brill on Sunday, July 16th, as he leads a group through Tarrywile Park and learn more about what types of edible/medicinal wild plants and mushrooms are in the park. For more information or to register for the tours, please contact "Wildman" at (914)8352153 or at [wildmansteve@bigfoot.com](mailto:wildmansteve@bigfoot.com). Additional information can also be viewed at [www.wildmanstevebrill.com](http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com).

### **Magic Story Hour**

Family Series

Thursday's August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st from 11:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

A story is magic, whether old or new. Let your children experience the wonderful world of imagination through storytime as told by storyteller, Joyce Marie Rayno. In August, bring all the kids for another series of stories. The program will be held in the Children's Garden with parking available in the lower Mansion parking lot. In the event of bad weather, the story hour will be held in the Mansion Library with parking in the upper Mansion parking lot. The programs are free, but please call the Park office to pre-register at (203)744-3130. Please also join us in October of 2006 for another series of story hours.

### **Eastern Mountain Sports**

Located in the Danbury Fair Mall, EMS will continue to sponsor several programs in the Park during the spring and summer season. Below is a brief listing of the classes they will be offering. For a complete listing and more information on the individual classes, please contact EMS directly at (203)794-1043.

GPS Clinic on Wednesday, July 19, 2006. Outdoor Photography 101 Part One on Wednesday, July 12th and Part Two on Saturday, July 15, 2006.

### **Adopt-a-Street Cleanup**

Held the 2nd Sunday of each month. Take part in the monthly cleanup of the streets around Tarrywile Park. Please bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Please meet at a park in the lower Mansion lot. Call Claire at (203)792-1209 for more information.

### **How to's**

How to Load a backpack: Stash heavy items in the middle and close to your spine to maintain your center of gravity: sleeping bag at the bottom, then food and tent, then clothes on top. Distribute weight evenly on both sides and tighten the compression straps

How to predict the time of sunset: Hold your hand in front of you with your arm extended and palm facing in. Align the bottom of your hand with the horizon, then count fingers until you reach the sun. If it is early, you'll need more than five fingers. Each finger equals roughly 10 minutes of daylight.

How to find north without a compass: Point your watch's hour hand toward the sun. South will be halfway between the hour hand and 12; north is opposite that (Northern Hemisphere only).

How to Lace your boots: Yes, there is a better way. Halfway up the row of eyelets, twist the laces around each other a few times and tighten, creating a stopper, then continue lacing. The technique is called double-hitching and it leaves the toebox roomy without compromising ankle support.      \*\* "How To's" taken from Backpacker Magazine